

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to support Petition for Rulemaking RM-11699 to allow for the option of using encryption of certain amateur communications during emergency operations and related training exercises.

As a member of the Amateur Radio community, I am experienced in the transmission of various types of messages. Serving as a communications specialist for the Randolph Township Fire Protection District in Heyworth, IL, I have experienced multiple situations where the transmission of information was moved to different mediums due to the lack of encryption on two-way radio channels. The lack of encryption in Amateur Radio communications does limit the messages we allow this service to send on our behalf. In emergency situations, appropriate levels of encryption should be made available for use regardless of the radio service being utilized. Likewise, in order to prepare for their use, training situations should also allow the use of encryption.

The use of encryption, however, should not relieve the parties from the requirement to identify transmissions. This would still allow interference complaints or other coordination activities to be handled in a reasonable manner.

The use of encryption should also not be a requirement for all transmissions, as this would severely limit the Amateur Radio resources available to participate in emergency operations.

Thank you for your consideration of extending the option of encryption to the Amateur Radio community.

Respectfully yours,
Michael Brown, KG9DW
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